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Pacifist Push

Clamor Is On for Viet Cong Talks

By William S. White

THE BIG push is now on to compel the United States to submit to Communist blackmail in Viet-Nam in the name of a "peace" that would be a Munich of the Sixties — a surrender to the veiled blade of Communist aggression as Munich was to the naked blade of Hitler.



White

Voices in the Senate are joined by many European voices in demands that this country "deal with" and thus legitimize the Viet Cong "insurgents" in South Viet-Nam who are, in plain words, the spearheads of a Communist invasion directed at second hand from Red China by way of North Viet-Nam.

All the forces of intentional and unintentional pacifism are gathering in supreme effort. The sum of their case is that the United States must be more "reasonable" toward those who break the world's peace by open military assault upon South Viet-Nam.

The Nation that now all but alone carries the burden to resist the new Communist imperialism finds itself attacked far more virulently, at home and in Europe, than are those who are carrying forward this cynical pattern of conquest.

A U.S. SENATOR, Frank Church of Idaho, joins the clamors for what, however fuzzed over, would amount

to recognition of the Viet Cong as though this marauding bandit-Communist group had a legitimate place at any peace table. He is saluted by other Democratic soft-liners in the Senate and he is echoed by a former British foreign minister still very close to the British Labor Government, Patrick Gordon Walker.

The United States is prepared to allow Viet Cong people to sit at any honest peace table, but not to grant them status as bargaining agents. Even in this we go dangerously far. The day we permitted them real participation would be the day we set the seal of consent upon the technique of the concealed blade of Communist aggression.

Yes, the push is on. And all those who are prepared to take their adult responsibilities in a tough world must face it that their only reward is likely to be the consciousness of duty done. For the other side has all the - appealing words — "peace" and all that. And the hammering grows harder and harder from domestic politicians and foreign politicians — and much of the European press — who simply want out of Viet-Nam and out from under our solemn obligations there.

One can see this pounding in the outcries at President Johnson for committing two dreadful crimes at the recent anniversary meeting of the United Nations. One crime was to withhold an immediate promise to pick up even

more of the tab for running the U.N. so that the Russians and others could continue to refuse to pay even a small share. The other crime was the President's tactless determination not to cut and run in Viet-Nam and his even more tactless act of identifying the aggressor out loud.

IT IS a strange world. Those who do their hard duty are denounced for it and those who wish to cut and run are the "reasonable" men. But it is not a new world. It has just come to light, for illustration, that on the day Richard Bissell was fired from the Central Intelligence Agency in 1962 he was presented by President Kennedy with the National Security Medal.

It was Bissell who was largely responsible for developing the U2 "spy plane" with which President Eisenhower committed the crime of attempting to guard us against any sudden Soviet push. This was bad enough to those critics of any kind of American action that might offend the Communist side. But Bissell was also associated with the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Castro Cuba in 1961 — associated with it, that is, in the losing group of advisers who wanted to do much more than we did to try to make the thing work.

If he were still in Government, he could have the bleak satisfaction of being with those who uphold national duty — and are in consequence scorned by the "reasonable" men.

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